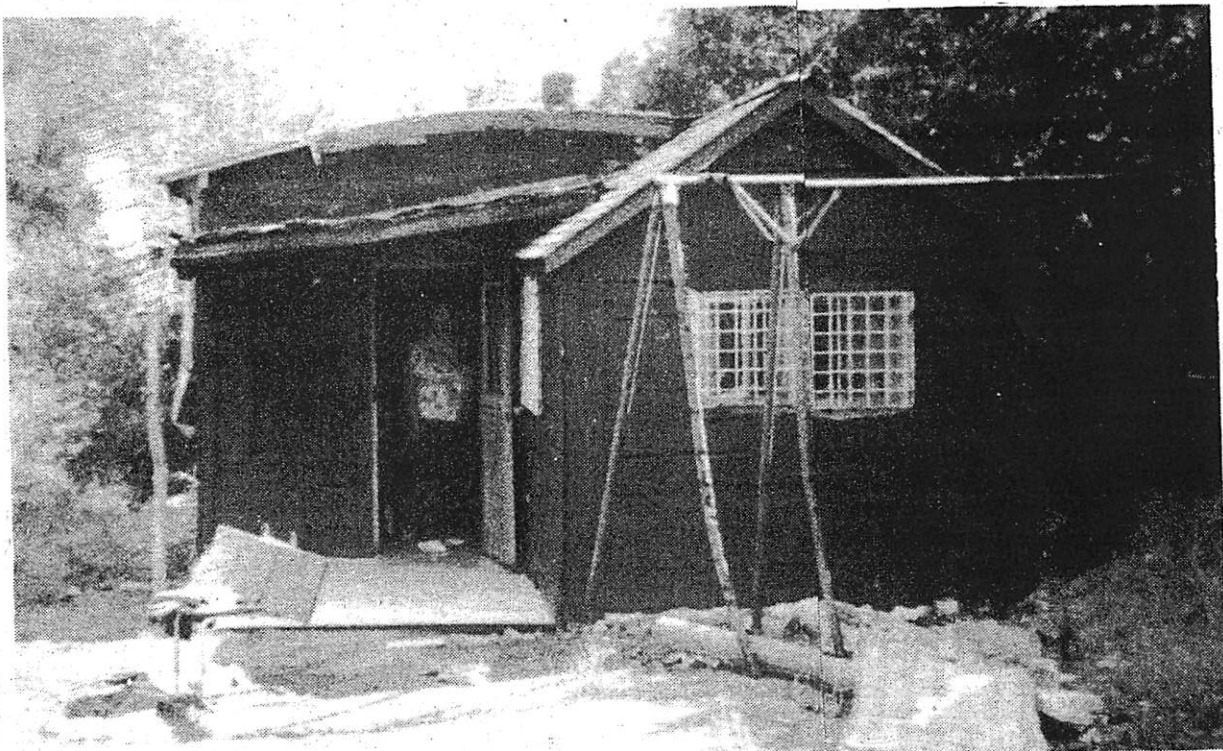


Little Pole Cabin on The Hill Burns Down



The Little Pole Cabin on the Hill, 6-1/2 miles northeast of Heber City, burned to the ground Sunday afternoon, taking with it many memories for a lot of Wasatch County people.

The cabin owned by Mike Gale, known as the Little Pole Cabin on the Hill, which held many memories for four generations of Gales and their friends, as well as strangers, burned to the ground Sunday afternoon.

Wasatch County Sheriff Edd Thacker said the cause of the fire is unknown but that it was probably man-caused.

Mr. Gale, 76, said the cabin started out as a cooking shack for a construction crew in the Strawberry Valley and he moved it to Little Pole Canyon, about 6-1/2 miles northeast of Heber City, in 1953. He added a bedroom with four double beds and four bunk beds, then a kitchen, and opened it up to anyone who wanted to use it. He said it was vandalized a number of times,

"but we always came back and fixed it."

A former Utah Highway Patrolman, Mr. Gale said he entertained fellow troopers, barbecued steaks, played horseshoes and shot pistols at the cabin, and that it had been the site of many parties over the years. "I guess most of the kids that are still here in the valley have been there...We've had a lot of good

times, a lot of good memories."

His daughter, Peg Giles, said the cabin contained "a whale of a lot of memories for a lot of people in the valley."

Mr. Gale recalled staying at the cabin and hunting for many years with his father, Clyde. Thinking of the cabin brought back a vivid recollection of the first time one of his grandsons saw a deer killed and cleaned while they were at the cabin.

Peg said the cabin was open for anybody to use, during the days when people could be trusted. She said her dad put a sign on the door that said "Use this cabin as you please. Just leave it as you found it," and a lot of people did. In most cases, they left it better than they found it, she said.

She added that a lot of babies were probably made at the cabin, too.

The cabin used to serve as a base camp for hunting parties. However, Mr. Clyde said neighboring property owners have banned hunting in the area for the past three years.

He and his wife, Ellen, who now live in St. George, had planned to begin working on the cabin in about a month and turn it into a summer "headquarters," so they could fish at Strawberry and Deer Creek.

But he doesn't plan to rebuild. He said there's nothing left but some bed and couch springs, and the stove and refrigerator. He said he's going to clean it up. "so I don't